

Reginald Byron Jones-Sawyer, Sr.

59th Assembly District



AB 1892: Feeding California

SUMMARY

AB 1892 would expand Transitional CalFresh (TCF) benefits to a broader group of Californians transitioning from welfare to work.

BACKGROUND

Lack of dependable access to food is a problem that disproportionately affects low income individuals and communities of color. In 2017 the US Department of Agriculture found that among households at or near the poverty line 38.3% lack dependable access to food. California and its counties administer various programs to address this issue, including the Supplemental Nutrition and Assistance Program (CalFresh).

While hunger impacts families on public benefits, those transitioning from welfare and into work are cited as having even higher incidences of hunger. This is because the transition to work can result in many unexpected "new job" expenses, a lack of reliable scheduling and a long wait between aid and their first paycheck.

Under federal law, California may offer 5 months of TCF to people who are leaving state or county cash aid programs under certain conditions. California already offers Transitional CalFresh for households leaving CalWORKs.

County General Assistance or General Relief programs and the Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), each provide households with cash assistance to meet some of their basic needs. AB 1892 would require California to extend federally funded TCF to these populations, in addition to youth transitioning from extended foster care payments.

THIS BILL

Insufficient access to food is an issue that can have long lasting impacts on an individual's health and life outcomes. California can make a meaningful impact on hunger and increase access to nutritional resources by extending Transitional CalFresh benefits, for up to five months, to households ending their time with the following programs:

- Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants
- County General Relief or General Assistance
- Benefits under the California Fostering Connections to Success Act

This bill would also allow individuals on CalFresh to participate in CalFresh Employment and Training (CalFresh E&T) to help enable further upward mobility. Finally, because access to online resources and applications is often a barrier to work AB 1892 would allow CalFresh E&T to be used to cover the costs internet or telephone services.

COST ANALYSIS

There would be minimal state costs to cover administrative expenses.

SUPPORT

Western Center on Law and Poverty (sponsor)
Hunger Action Los Angeles (sponsor)

OPPOSITION

None on file.

CONTACT

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